

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 22-24, and 26-34 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 8-10, 16-18, 23-24 and 28-29 have been amended. Claims 32-34 have been added as new. No new matter has been added. It is noted that the currently pending claims are not to be interpreted as means-plus-function claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Tung Vo for the personal interview with the Applicants' representatives on August 25, 2005 at the United States Patent & Trademark Office. During the personal interview, the applicants' representatives presented arguments distinguishing newly amended independent Claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 28 and 29 (as contained in this amendment) over the prior art references relied upon by the Examiner. As reflected on the Interview Summary (form PTOL-413), agreement was reached that the prior art of record fails to disclose the features contained in the newly amended independent claims. Provided next is a Substance of the Interview including the arguments which were presented for clearly distinguishing the presently claimed invention over the prior art of record.

Initially, it is noted that, during the personal interview, the Examiner requested the Applicants to provide a very brief explanation of the term "running" as used in the specification and claims. It is submitted that the use of the term "running" is intended to have the same meaning as "moving." For example, the phrase "running state of the

vehicle” is intended to have the same meaning as “moving state of the vehicle.” Pages 29-36 of the Specification provide other examples and embodiments of the running state of the vehicle.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 16-19 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schofield et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,498,620 B2). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 10-15 and 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,498,620 B2) in view of Shimizu (U.S. Pat. No. 5,796,991). Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield et al. in view of Shum et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,271,847). Claims 1, 7 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daily et al. et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,317,127) in view of Schofield et al. Claims 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield et al. in view of Ijima et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,973,726). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicants have amended each of the pending independent claims in order to more clearly distinguish the claims over the prior art of record.

Particularly, according to the newly amended independent claims, the present invention comprises an image processing part operable to receive images captured by a plurality of cameras shooting surroundings of a vehicle and operable to generate a synthetic image using the received images captured by the plurality of cameras, the

synthetic image showing the vehicle from a virtual point of view. For example, the synthetic image depicted in Figure 4 and the synthetic image is generated from the images captured by the plurality of cameras depicted in Figure 4.

It is submitted that the aforementioned features are contained within each of newly amended independent Claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 28 and 29 of the present application. It is further submitted that the prior art of record, either taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest the aforementioned features of the presently claimed invention.

It is noted that Schofield et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,498,620) reference is directed towards a rearview vision system [see abstract and column 5 (lines 48-55)]. Particularly, the actual images captured by the rearward pointed cameras 14 and 16 showing in Figure 1 are juxtaposed on the display 20 shown in Figure 3 to approximate a substantially seamless panoramic rear view of the vehicle with the vehicle being transparent [see column 5(line 65) – column 6 (line 6)]. Thus, unlike the presently claimed invention, the Schofield et al. reference clearly fails to disclose a synthetic image which is generated using images captured by cameras (Schofield et al. discloses actual images which are merely juxtaposed together on a single image for display) and clearly fails to disclose a synthetic image showing the vehicle from a virtual point of view (vehicle in Schofield et al. is transparent to the view and, thus, is clearly not shown from a virtual point of view or any other view).

Thus, the Applicants submit that the Schofield et al. reference, as well as the remaining references of record, fail to disclose or suggest the newly added features of

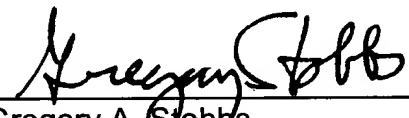
amended independent Claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 28 and 29 of the present application.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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